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Buenos Ayres; in the siege of Louisburg; the terrible retreat from Russia, and in the operations on the Gold Coast. Fog has constantly been present during the operations of war, most frequently, perhaps, on land, though the sailors had their share at Barfleur, Cape St. Vincent and before Tsushima. Indeed, on one memorable occasion, the *Centurion,* with Lord Anson on board, sailed through the French fleet undetected. Three great men lost their lives through fog, Sir Philip Sidney at Zutphen, Gustavus Adolphus at Lützen, and the Scot, Marshal Keith, in the Seven-Years' War. The result of the battle of Barnet was due to fog, and Frederick the Great was misled by it at the battle of Lowositz. The part played by rain, too, is an important one in history, from the loss of Varus's legions in Westphalia down to the destruction of the Duke of Tarentum's army in Silesia. The siege of Vienna by Solyman failed through rain. Napoleon was defeated at Caldiero from the same cause, and the operations of General Lee in 1863 during the Civil War were hampered by it. Reference is also made to the passages of the Alps in snow from Hannibal's time to that of Napoleon; to the march of the Sikhs to relieve Chitral, and to the snowstorms at the battles of Hohenlinden and Eylau, and during the French retreat from Russia. Ice has been favourable to military operations. It was employed for the defence of the Balkans, and in 1800 in the Tonale Pass on the Italian frontier the Austrians made use of it in cubes to build forts, which turned out to be impregnable. Charles the Tenth crossed from Sweden on the frozen Baltic to invade Denmark, and General Pichegru overran Holland in 1795 when its rivers and canals were frozen, and even captured some vessels by sending his cavalry to sea, when their horses feet were made rough, over the ice. Illustrations of campaigning under great heat are given from the time of the great Captain Gonsalvo de Cordova to that of Sir Charles Napier in Sind, and Lord Strathnairn in India, and to the recent battle of Yosherei in 1904. The destruction of Cambyses in a simoom (?) and of the Emperor Julian in his Persian campaign are alluded to. Several engagements have taken place in the height of gales, such as Admiral Hake's victory at Quiberon and Admiral Rodney's off the Spanish coast. Other interventions of weather are noticed, such as the mirages which haunted the exhausted French troops in the desert, and the temporary lowering of the waters of the Baltic and of the Sea of Azof in special winds, which permitted the fortress of Stralsund and the celebrated lines of Perekop to be captured. R. DeC. W.

The Building of an Island, being a Sketch of the Geological Structure of the Danish West Indian Island of St. Croix, or Santa Cruz. By John T. Quin, F.R.G.S. The Author, Christiansted, St. Croix. 1907. 4to.

The twelfth or concluding chapter of the work under consideration begins as follows:

> While it seems desirable, in entering on the study of the geological formations of our island, to begin with the younger set of rocks and trace the story backwards, it may be instructive, in summarizing the results of our observations, to take the opposite course, and, as far as possible, note leading events and conditions in their natural sequence.
>
> As a preliminary, we must remember that the crystalline structure prevalent in our older formation has been induced in the strata since the materials of which they are composed were deposited, and similarly that the dikes of igneous rock which we find cutting them through have been intruded so that in the first instance we have to confine our thoughts simply to their deposition.

While thanking the author for the valuable suggestion that the components of a rock were on hand when and where that rock was formed, we, and probably a great many others, had been bold enough to suppose this fact without first consulting him. He is manifestly a schoolmaster, or, as modern American terminology has it, an "educator," and he attempts in twelve dismal chapters and with the aid of diagrams and plans, together with a map as recent as 1856, to "educate" us to a vague conception of the building or formation of the island of St. Croix in the Danish West Indies. The above quotation gives an idea of his average style, but we shall not attempt to give specimens of the pedantry displayed in almost every part of the book. It is difficult to conceive whether that book is written for a well-informed public or for a primary school. If for the former, the childish object lessons, as in the first chapter, the tiresome and almost offensive explanation of the cause why lime-rock effervesces in muriatic acid and clay does not, the interesting statement that soils are classed among rocks, and the almost endless dissertation on Foraminiferæ and the like are wholly superfluous; if for children, the bulk of the text has too many pretensions to being technical.

We look in vain for terse, logical conclusions. All we can discern is, that the author favours the opinion that there may have been two successive formations of the island, one, possibly anterior of the Cretaceous period and followed by submersion; then again, slow upheavals and subsequent deposits so as to form another dry surface. The latter "perhaps" at the time of the chalk formation. Trap dikes indicate that the volcanic forces have, to a limited extent, risen to the degree of eruption on the surface. We do not attempt to penetrate any further into the intricacies of the book, wishing the reader much patience in his endeavours to peruse it. The illustrations are mostly quite commendable. A. F. B.

British Rainfall, 1907. By Hugh Robert Mill. 8vo. London, Stanford, 1908. Pp. 280.

The 47th volume of *British Rainfall*—surely a good, long record of important scientific work, faithfully done. Dr. Mill, in his report, notes that the late Mr. G. J. Symons began his systematic observations of rainfall at 9 A. M., Jan. 2, 1858, so that the fiftieth year of the Camden Square rainfall station was completed Jan. 1, 1908, a half-century of unbroken observations. When we read of the many activities of Dr. Mill, the present director of the British Rainfall Organization, we can but wonder at his being able to carry on this rainfall work so successfully, year by year. The present volume contains the records of over 4,000 observers. There are special discussions of important rainfall features of the year; of the thunderstorms of July 21 and 22, with half-tone views of damage caused by them; extracts from Dr. Mill's address before the Royal Meteorological Society on "Mapping Rainfall," and the usual observers' notes, and tabulations.

R. DeC. W.